THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) No, Sir. However, Railways are meeting requirements of essential commodities including cement in North-Eastern Region and their input by Railways in the region is regularly monitored.

(b) and (c) During 2001-02, Railways have transported 1061 thousand tonnes of cement to North-Eastern Region. While in the year 2002-03, 1277 thousand tonnes of cement have been transported to North-Eastern Region. There is an increase of 21.4%. During October-March 2002, transportation of cement to North-East was 495 thousand tonnes while in the corresponding period of the current financial year 648 thousand tonnes of cement have been transported to North-East region thus showing an incremental transportation of 30.9%. This trend of substantially increased transportation of essential commodities including cement to North-East region is continuing in the month of April, 2003.

Connecting of State Capitals with Rail lines in NE Region

3840. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of rail lines which are meant to connect State Capitals in NE Region;

(b) State capitals linking rail line pending for construction; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (c) The following three new line projects have already been included in the budget to provide connectivity to State capitals in the N.E. Region :

(i) Harmuti-Itanagar

(ii) Diphu-Karong as first phase of BG line to Imphal.

(iii) Kumarghat-Agartala

The work of Kumarghat-Agartala is in progress. The surveys for alternative alignment for Harmuti-Itanagar and Diphu-karong have been taken up on the requests of State Governments. The work on these projects would be taken up based on decision on the alternative alignments.

Collection of tickets at Terminating Stations

3841. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state : (a) whether it is mandatory for passengers to surrender their used train tickets at the terminating stations;

(b) if so, whether tickets are forcibly collected and not returned to the pasengers by railway authorities while passengers have the right to retain them for the fare paid to their travel; and

(c) whether Railways will consider leaving the tickets to passengers after checking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The tickets are collected as per extant rules.

(c) There is no such proposal.

Compensation for Pilferage and other losses

3842. SHRI MURLI DEORA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of compensation cases pending with each Railway Claims Tribunal as on 31st October, 2002 and the number of cases settled during the last two years by each of these Tribunals;

(b) the number of cases pending for more than 3, 4 and 5 years respectively;

(c) the amount of compensation paid for (1) perishable goods (2) pilferage (3) complete loss (4) damage by water and (5) petroleum oil and lubricants seprartely, during last years; and